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**State Representative Carol Ammons and The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation to Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Local Free Clinic**

**URBANA** — To help keep residents safe as local communities continue to battle the COVID-19 virus, State Rep. Carol Ammons will distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to local health care workers in partnership with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation (ILBCF) at the Champaign County Christian Health Center (CCCHC) on September 15th, 2021.

“The ILBCF is committed to assisting with the needs of Black Illinoisians during this pandemic,” said ILBCF Executive Director Tiffany Hightower. “We are pleased to partner with State Representative Carol Ammons to ensure masks are distributed within her community to promote safety during the indoor masks mandate.”

On Aug. 30, Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a statewide mask mandate for all Illinois residents regardless of vaccination status. Champaign County resides in Region 6 of the state’s health care system with a 7.7% COVID-19 test positivity rate as of Sept. 10. Providing PPE will ensure that health clinics are equipped to follow guidelines and protect residents and staff during the current surge of the COVID-19 virus.

“Keeping frontline health care workers safe is critical to helping address the resurgence of COVID-19,” Ammons said. “I will continue to support the clinics in Champaign-Urbana that work tirelessly to combat the virus and keep our communities safe. As schools and universities get back into session this fall, it is more important than ever to refocus efforts towards mitigation and protection.”

PPE is the first line of protection for healthcare personnel to minimize their exposure to infectious diseases or hazardous materials in the clinical environment. In addition to hand washing, PPE is used to interrupt the transmission of pathogens related to transmissible diseases such as COVID-19.

“Champaign County Christian Health Center, also known as CCCHC, provides holistic, free, and quality healthcare services to the uninsured and underinsured patients in the Champaign/Urbana community,” said CCCHC Executive Director Crystal Hogue. “With the increased numbers of COVID-19 cases and the Delta Variant arising across the globe, it is essential that we stand firm in protecting our patients, our volunteers and staff, and our community. I can't stress enough the importance of our community adhering to these PPE guidelines. Wear PPE, it's free and can save a life.”